

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SP-03 SCA-01 L-03 CPR-02 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4092

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, WB. GE, US

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR EAST BERLIN EMBASSY PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 213286

1. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID SITUATION
IN WHICH FIRST ENTRY OF OUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO
EAST BERLIN WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR GDR TO TAKE
ACTION DETRIMENTAL TO OUR THEORY OF BERLIN AS SINGLE
CITY BY PLACING ENTRY STAMP
INTO US PASSPORTS AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE.

2. WE SUGGEST AS GENERAL RULE
THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO EAST BERLIN EMBASSY OBTAIN
GDR VISAS AT NEAREST CONVENIENT POINT AND PLAN TO
PROCEED DIRECTLY TO EAST BERLIN BY ONE OF FOLLOWING
MEANS:

A. AIRPLANE DIRECTLY TO SCHOENEFELD

GDR WOULD STAMP PASSPORT AND
ENTRY VISA AT WHAT IS INDISPUTABLY TERRITORY OF GDR
(SCHOENEFELD IS OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN PROPER).
DESPITE LONGER TRAVEL INVOLVED IN ROUTING AIR TRAVELERS
VIA POINT WITH DIRECT FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD (E.G.,
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COPENHAGEN, AMSTERDAM OR VIENNA), THIS WOULD PROVIDE FEWEST
COMPLICATIONS.

B. BY CAR ALONG ANY ROUTE TO EAST BERLIN

TRAVELERS SHOULD OBTAIN GDR VISAS FOR THEMSELVES AND FAMILY IN ADVANCE AT CROSSING POINT AND PROCEED ALONG ANY CONVENIENT GDR ROUTE DIRECTLY TO EAST BERLIN. IN CASE OF HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN, TRAVELERS WITH GDR VISAS SHOULD AVOID SOVIET CHECKPOINTS AND USE GDR CHECKPOINTS EXCLUSIVELY. UPON ARRIVAL IN BERLIN AREA, TRAVELERS SHOULD AVOID TURNOFFS FOR WEST BERLIN AND PROCEED DIRECTLY VIA BERLIN RING INTO EAST BERLIN. FOR TRAVELERS FROM BONN, ENTERING GDR AT HERLESHAUSEN RATHER THAN HELMSTEDT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE, AS WELL AS SHORTER.

C. BY TRAIN

TRAVELERS WITH GDR VISAS CAN BOARD NORMAL TRAINS FOR EAST BERLIN PRESENTING THEIR PASSPORTS FOR STAMPING AT GDR STATE BORDER (FORMER DEMARCATION LINE).

3. PROBLEM ARISES FOR THOSE TRAVELERS WHO WISH TO ARRIVE AT TEMPELHOF OR TEGEL IN WEST BERLIN (E.G., JAMES WEINER-STATE 216434). UK PRACTICE IN SUCH CASES IS TO DISPATCH CAR FROM UK EMBASSY EAST BERLIN TO PICK UP TRAVELER AND TAKE HIM LONG WAY AROUND VIA DREILINDEN EXIT FROM WEST BERLIN AND ALONG BERLIN RING TO ENTER INTO EAST BERLIN, THUS AVOIDING CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. HOWEVER, ASSUMING THAT FOR SOME TIME NEITHER CARS NOR DRIVERS PERMITTED TO ENTER WEST BERLIN WILL BE AVAILABLE AT US EMBASSY, BY WAY OF EXCEPTION WE BELIEVE SUCH PERSONS COULD ENTER EAST BERLIN USING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WITHOUT GDR VISA AS IDENTIFICATION. SUCH TRAVELERS COULD BE TRANSPORTED TO EAST BERLIN IN A U.S. MISSION CAR OR CAR BELONGING TO MEMBER US FORCES WEST BERLIN. TRAVELER WOULD THEN BE REQUIRED TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOR VISAS AT GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE OVERNIGHT STAY AS OPPOSED TO DAYTIME VISIT REQUIRES SOME FORM OF DOCUMENTATION. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD NOT BE VIOLATION OF GDR REGULATION, CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SINCE GDR AUTHORITIES PERMIT AMERICANS TO ENTER EAST BERLIN (BUT NOT GDR ITSELF) ON BASIS PROPER IDENTIFICATION. GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AMERICAN DESK TOLD MISSION OFFICERS OCTOBER 1 THAT ARRIVAL WITHOUT VISAS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE MINISTRY WANTED TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE.

6. COMMENT:

WE BELIEVE SYSTEM OUTLINED ABOVE PRESENTS MINIMUM

INCONVENIENCE TO STAFF ARRIVING AT EAST BERLIN.
AND ACCORDS WITH PRACTICE OF FRENCH AND BRITISH WHO
HAVE GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO AVOID STAMPS
AT SECTOR/SECTOR BOUNDARY.KLEIN

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